

and prominent political investigations that cannot be credibly handled by the Attorney General, who is, after all, an appointee of the President. The Attorney General has responded that the independent counsel law should be aimed at specific allegations of wrongdoing, not generalized grievances; otherwise, the independent counsel, who operates with broad powers and an unlimited budget, could not be properly constrained in his investigation.

Conclusions: I agree with the Attorney General's decision not to seek an independent counsel. My chief concern is with the appointment process. The independent counsel, if requested, would be selected by a three-judge panel which has shown a strong bias against the President.

I have been dissatisfied, however, with the Attorney General's investigation. The campaign finance scandal has created a serious crisis of credibility for the American political system. The Department of Justice investigation has been slow and unimpressive. Serious questions have been raised about the failure to pursue important leads, the FBI director's open disapproval, emphasis on technicalities of the law, and conflicts of interest—all of which haven't been adequately addressed. The answer, I believe, is the appointment by the Attorney General of a special prosecutor, as was done in Watergate. Such a prosecutor, with impeccable credentials, could provide a thorough and impartial review of campaign fundraising abuses by both parties.

The Attorney General's inquiry also highlights the need for campaign finance reform. Prosecutors will not bring charges unless they have a clear understanding of a law and its sanctions. Here, the campaign finance law, as written by Congress and interpreted by regulators and the courts, is riddled with so many loopholes it is almost unenforceable. We need a law which clearly limits the influence of money in campaigns and provides penalties for violators.

TRIBUTE TO THE LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the members of the Las Virgenes Unified School District Board of Education for their service and dedication to the children of our community.

John Dewey once wrote that "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." The board members of this district have committed themselves to ensuring our children receive the best education possible, and therefore the most productive and fulfilling life possible. They are one of 12 school boards throughout the state of California in which all its members have earned their Masters of Boardmanship; a process which involves a rigorous course of professional development. Recently, the entire board was one of only 11 school boards recognized by the California School Boards Association for this accomplishment. This achievement is especially noteworthy because there are more than 1,000 school boards in the state.

Recent accomplishments attributed to the hard work of our board members include the passage of a \$93 million Facilities Bond with

an overwhelming majority vote. The board was also able to reduce class sizes for grades K-3 without hurting other programs. As a result, our children will receive the attention that is necessary to ensure that all students work to their full potential. In addition, a model computer technology training lab has been established for all staff members, and a policy was created which requires all students to pass algebra and geometry prior to graduation.

Schools in the Las Virgenes Unified District are consistently recognized for their commitment to excellence. A "California State Teacher of the Year" has been chosen from this district for the past two years, and ten of the district's schools have been recognized as California Distinguished Schools, National Blue Ribbon Schools and National Blue Ribbon Nominees. These accomplishments are a testament to the fact that the school board has established and maintained standards of excellence—standards to which other schools should aspire.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring the members of the Board of Education for the Las Virgenes Unified School District: Amy Berns, Barbara Bowman-Fagelson, Judy Jordan, Charlotte Meyer and Larry Rubin. These individuals have selflessly dedicated their time and energy to our community, and collectively they have worked to improve the standard of education that is received by our children.

HONORING AN AMERICAN HERO

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize Fred Korematsu, a man who stands as an example of the immutable struggle for human rights and social equity. Fifty-six years ago, a young Japanese American man stood up for justice and, as a result, had his freedom taken away. In 1942, Fred Korematsu resisted the order which sent 120,000 Japanese Americans into internment, as perceived threats to national security during World War II. Fred Korematsu defied the order because he was an American citizen who merely wanted to live his life as an American.

His refusal to report to internment resulted in conviction of a felony. He was placed in a confinement camp in Utah. In 1944, with the help of the American Civil Liberties Union, his case was brought before the Supreme Court to challenge the legality of that discriminatory order, but the court upheld the conviction.

It took four decades for that injustice to be redressed.

In 1983, evidence was brought to light which showed officials in the Navy and the Justice Department had suppressed information showing Japanese Americans were not a threat to national security. With that proof, Fred Korematsu made another appeal for justice. Recognizing that internment had been based on fraudulent information, a federal court finally vacated his conviction.

On January 15, 1998, the man who was handcuffed and taken to jail as an enemy alien over half a century ago, was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor our nation can bestow. His

steadfast belief in freedom and liberty should have evidenced him as a true American in 1943. Today, I applaud Fred Korematsu on his reception of the Medal of Freedom. It is a recognition too long deferred.

His case reminds us of the ease with which discrimination can be perpetrated and freedom violated. The internment of Japanese Americans is a deplorable part of our nation's history, and it should always be remembered as such. They were American citizens treated as alien enemies. Let Fred Korematsu continue to stand as an ideal of commitment to progress and perseverance against injustice.

CORONA ROTARY CLUB CELEBRATES 75 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, my hometown or Corona, California is blessed with many individuals who work tirelessly to improve the community's economy, educational system, environment and quality of life. When individuals like these form an organization, the benefits are innumerable. These benefits are reaped not only by the entire community, but also by the individuals who participate. Friendships and business relationships are formed and a tradition of cooperation develops within the community. The Corona Rotary Club is one of these exceptional organizations.

This month, the Corona Rotary Club is celebrating its 75th anniversary, marking three-quarters of a century of educational aid and community service in the city of Corona. The Corona Rotary Club is part of a larger organization, Rotary International, which consists of 6,000 clubs worldwide and sponsors several types of programs both regionally and internationally. One of these programs is its PolioPlus Program, which has virtually eradicated polio worldwide. Under sponsorship from the Riverside Rotary Club, the Corona Rotary Club was chartered on January 26, 1923. The club, founded by Herb Gully, initially consisted of 25 members with Charley Scoville serving as the first president. In 1940, a great honor was bestowed upon the organization when Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary International, visited the club. Since 1923, the Corona Rotary Club has grown to include 75 members.

The Corona Rotary Club sponsors an annual golf tournament in order to raise money for several youth organizations, including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, YMCA, and various sports programs. Rotary has also established numerous scholarship funds for students in the Corona area, the most recent being the Gordon Duncan Memorial Scholarship, which pays a student's tuition for four years at a California State University. The Corona Rotary Club also established the RR Root Foundation, an organization which assists children with self-esteem problems related to dental deformities and provides reconstructive surgery for children with these deformities.

On a personal note, I am especially proud of the Corona Rotary Club's 75 years of service to the community because I have been a member for many years and served as its